

REMARKS

Claims 20-37 are pending in the application. Claims 32-37 have been withdrawn from further consideration.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 20-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yumoto et al. (USP 6,734,910) in view of Taniguchi et al. (USP 6,549,232). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action, Yumoto fails to specifically disclose the controller causing non-selected frames of image signals existing in said recording device to be deleted, such that only the selected one frame of image signal is maintained. Accordingly, Yumoto fails to disclose or suggest the “controller” as recited in claim 20.

Taniguchi discloses, in Fig. 1 and in col. 4, lines 23-47, a camera having a mode change-over switch S3 of the slide type for changing over the camera among various functions or modes.

Such modes include an “ERASE-ALL” mode, in which all picture images recorded in the internal memory and an IC card are permitted to be erased, and an “ERASE-SINGL” mode, in which a photographed picture image for a frame recorded in the internal memory or an IC card is permitted to be erased.

Taniguchi also discloses, in col. 4, lines 59-66, a protect switch S6, provided in the camera, for protecting that one of picture images recorded in the internal memory or the IC card which is desired to be maintained so that it may not be erased in error. When the protect switch

S6 is at its OFF position, the protecting function is not effective, but when the protect switch S6 is at its ON position, the protecting function is effective.

Therefore, in Taniguchi, one or more picture images stored in the internal memory or the IC card are erased only by a manual operation of the mode change-over switch S3 by a user, and, similarly, the picture images recorded in the internal memory or the IC card are protected from being erased by a manual operation of the protect switch S6 by the user.

Accordingly, even assuming that Yumoto and Taniguchi can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, one of ordinary skill in the art would modify the electronic camera of Yumoto to provide the mode change-over switch S3 and/or the protect switch S6 that need to be operated by the user.

However, in the claimed invention of the present application, it is the "controller" (and not the user) that causes the "non-selected frames of image signals, as distinguished from the one frame of image signal selected, existing in said recording device to be automatically deleted, such that only the selected one frame of image signal is maintained" (emphasis added).

For example, as shown in Fig. 10 of the present application, once a user selects a picture in step 1018, the controller deletes pictures other than the picture selected stored in memory 16 in step 1020.

Accordingly, Yumoto in view of Taniguchi fails to disclose or even suggest the "controller" as recited in claim 20.

Claims 21-31, variously dependent on claim 20, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 20.

Application No.: 09/656,995  
Reply dated March 14, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of December 14, 2005  
Page 10 of 11

Docket No.: 0378-0374P

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims Withdrawn from Consideration

Claims 32-37, variously dependent on claim 20, have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to the non-elected species.

Upon allowance of claim 20, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow claims 32-37.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (#40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

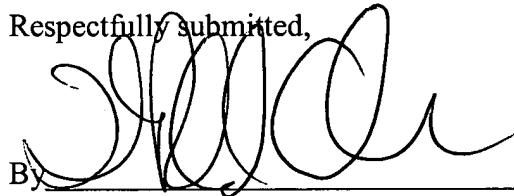
Application No.: 09/656,995  
Reply dated March 14, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of December 14, 2005  
Page 11 of 11

Docket No.: 0378-0374P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



By \_\_\_\_\_  
D. Richard Anderson  
Registration No.: 40,439  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road  
Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant